

**PHYSICAL MULTIMEDIA DOCUMENTS, AND METHODS AND
APPARATUS FOR PUBLISHING AND READING THEM**

Field of the Invention

5 The invention relates to physical multimedia documents: that is, documents which are physical objects which contain information in two different forms of media. More specifically, the invention relates to documents which comprise both a printed document and information stored in a memory circuit.

10 Background to the Invention

Multimedia documents are typically considered to be digital rather than physical objects – typically, they are provided on a digital media carrier (such as a DVD) or downloaded from the public internet, and then rendered or otherwise executed as data in a plurality of data formats (for example, an html document 15 comprising within it text, audio in an audio format, images in an image format, or video in a video format). Such documents are typically for display on a PC.

It is known (see the applicant's earlier International Patent Application Publication No. 00/03298) to provide a copy of an image on a chip attached to a printed copy of the image as a way to recover the image if the printed copy is 20 damaged. It is also known (see WO 00/03298 and the art discussed therein) to annotate still images with sound. Some books have pockets holding CDs or DVDs containing ancillary material to be played on a CD or DVD player, or a PC. US Patent Application No. 2002/0170973 describes enhancement of printing paper with RFID chips adapted to provide copy control information.

25 It is generally appreciated that a physical book or magazine is a far more satisfactory form factor for a user to view data (in particular text) than the screen of a PC. It is therefore desirable to preserve this as a form factor for viewing text at least, but also to attempt to achieve the flexibility of data provision achievable with a digital multimedia document.

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Summary of the Invention

In a first aspect; the invention provides a published document comprising a printed document and at least one memory attached to the printed document, wherein said at least one memory comprises an electrical circuit without an integral power

source but may be powered wirelessly so that it may transmit information wirelessly, wherein at least a portion of the information stored in the published document for display to the user is provided in said at least one memory.

Conventional printed documents can therefore be enhanced by information (at least some of which is visual in character) relating to the information displayed in the printed document. This information will generally be provided by the publisher of the printed document (though in some embodiments the possibility exists for personalisation by adding some or all of this information at a later point).

Application of embodiments of the invention allows for a new kind of multimedia document – rather than being purely electronic, the document retains the clear advantages of the paper form factor for most visual information, but allows for other visual information to be provided by a highly user accessible interface. This additional visual information may be, for example, video, or may be personalised to a greater or a lesser degree (with the personalisation information either added to the document, or else residing within a reader device for reading the memory).

In a second aspect, the invention provides a reader device for reading information from an unpowered memory circuit attached to a printed document, the reader device comprising: a circuit for providing power to the memory circuit so that data can be transmitted from a memory of the memory circuit; a decoder to read information transmitted by a transmitter of the memory circuit; and a display circuit for providing information received by the decoder for display.

In a third aspect, the invention provides a system for viewing published information, comprising a published document as described above and a reader device as described above.

In a fourth aspect, the invention provides a method of viewing information in a published document comprising a printed document and one or more memory circuits attached to the printed document, the method comprising: viewing information printed in the printed document; powering the memory circuit with a reader device to transmit information stored in the memory circuit to the reader device wirelessly; and displaying the information stored in the memory circuit by means of the reader device for viewing by the user.

In a fifth aspect, the invention provides a method of publishing a document, comprising: determining first information for viewing by a user to be printed in a printed document and second information for viewing by a user to be written to one or

more memory circuits attached to the printed document; printing the first information on a print medium to form the printed document; and writing the second information into the one or more memory circuits attached to the printed document, wherein the one or more memory circuits are adapted to be powered and read wirelessly by a reader device so that the second information can be viewed by a user.

Description of Drawings

Specific embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

Figure 1 illustrates a sheet of paper annotated with electronic data in a manner illustrative of an embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 illustrates an RFID memory tag suitable for use in the embodiments of the invention;

Figure 3 illustrates the circuitry of the memory tag of Figure 2 and of a read/write device for wireless communication with the memory tag;

Figure 4 is a schematic of the main elements of a printing device suitable for executing a method according to embodiments of the invention from the side;

Figure 5 is a schematic of the apparatus of Figure 4 from above;

Figure 6 is a block diagram of the control of the apparatus of Figures 4 and 5;

and

Figure 7 illustrates a system for viewing information in accordance with embodiments of the invention in use.

Description of Specific Embodiments

There will first be described, with reference to Figures 1 to 3, a particularly suitable technology for use according to embodiments of the invention by which memory circuits can be attached to or incorporated within printed documents. The memory circuits described, referred to as memory tags, are a form of inductively powered circuit read and written by radio-frequency communication – as such they resemble the existing RFID tag – but it will be appreciated by the skilled person that alternative forms of memory circuit may also be employable for the purpose described. There will then be described, with reference to Figures 4 to 6, an exemplary method of printing documents whose published content for viewing is divided between a printed document and one or more memory circuits attached to or

incorporated within printed documents – the publishing of such documents will also be discussed. There will then be described, with reference to Figure 7, an exemplary approach to reading such published documents.

Figure 1 illustrates an item, in this case a sheet of paper 10, bearing printing 5 12, which has been annotated with electronic data using a plurality of memory tags 14. The memory tags 14 have been secured to the sheet of paper 10 at various locations over its surface, although they may alternatively be embedded in the paper sheet 10, preferably in locations identified by the printing 12, in order to assist in locating them for the purposes of reading data from or writing data to the memory 10 tags 14.

A hand held read/write device 16 is used to communicate with the memory tags 14 in wireless manner, as will be discussed further below. The read/write device 16 is also connected to a host computer, display, data rendering device or other apparatus 18 from which the data for writing to the memory tags 14 is received, 15 and/or the data read from the memory tags 14 is passed.

Referring now to Figure 2, a schematic of a memory tag 14 is shown. The memory tag 14 is an RFID memory tag provided on a chip, and comprises an RFID transponder circuit 20, a memory 22, a power supply capacitor 24 and an antenna coil 26 having only a few turns e.g. five, or as in this case a single turn. The RFID 20 transponder circuit 20 operates at 2.45GHz, is of an area of approximately 0.5 mm², and will be described further below. The memory 22 provides 1Mbit of capacity of non-volatile memory and is of an area of approximately 1 mm², and uses FRAM (ferroelectric random access memory) or MRAM (magnetoresistive random access memory) or similar memory technology requiring low power. The memory tags 14 25 are of a substantially square shape in plan view with an external dimension D for their sides of around 1mm.

Referring now to Figure 3, the circuitry of a memory tag 14 and circuitry 28 of the read/write device 16 are illustrated schematically, using conventional component identifications (C-capacitor, L-inductance, R-resistor, D-diode and S-switch). The 30 RFID transponder circuit 20 of the memory tag 14 comprises a capacitor C2 which, in combination with the antenna coil L2(26), forms a resonant circuit with component values being chosen to tune the combination to approximately 2.45GHz for inductive coupling with the read/write device 16. The portion of transponder circuit 20 responsible for power supply is diode D1 and capacitor C4(24), with diode D1

rectifying the alternating current generated by the inductive coupling and the capacitor C4 acts as a power supply storage. The portion of the transponder circuit 20 responsible for receiving transmitted data from the read/write device 16 is diode D2, capacitor C5 and resistor R1 which form a simple envelope detector; the data thus received is stored in memory 22. The portion of the transponder circuit 20 responsible for the reading of data from the memory 22 is the tuned circuit L2/C2 in combination with S1 and C3, switching C3 in and out of the circuit using S1 changes the resonance of tuned circuit L2/C2 resulting in phase modulation of the reflected power from the memory tag 14 to the read/write device 16.

The circuit 28 of the read/write device 16 comprises a signal generator 30 which generates a signal at the chosen frequency of 2.45GHz. This signal passes via an amplitude modulator 32, where it is amplitude modulated with data to be written to the memory tag 14, and a splitter 34, to an antenna L1 and capacitor C1 which form a tuned circuit. The component values of L1 and C1 being chosen to tune it to 2.45GHz, as for the tuned circuit in the memory tag 14, in order to maximise inductive coupling between the two circuits, and thus transmission of power and data to the memory tag 14.

The splitter 34 takes a part (as much as 50% of the power) of the amplitude modulated signal, for use as a reference signal, and passes it to a multiplier 36. The signal received from the memory tag 14, via the tuned circuit L1/C1 and divided from the outgoing signal by a coupler 38, is also passed to the multiplier 36. Thus the transmitted amplitude modulated signal and received signal are multiplied and then pass through a low pass filter 40 to provide a signal comprising the phase modulation from the memory tag 14 and thus indicative of the data read from the memory tag 14. This signal is then passed to the host computer or other device 18 to which the read/write device 16 is connected, for subsequent data processing.

One amplitude modulation format which may be used to apply the data to be transmitted to the 2.45GHz signal is Amplitude Shift Keying (ASK) which only requires the simple envelope detector D2/C5 described in the circuit 20. However, other amplitude modulation formats may also be employed. Further alternatives are Frequency Shift Keying (FSK) and Phase Shift Keying (PSK) that provide near constant envelope modulation, that is without any significant amplitude modulation, however these options have more complex demodulation requirements and thus demand more complex circuitry in the memory tag 14.

With the apparatus of memory tag 14 and read/write device 16 described above power transfer of around 25% can be achieved with a distance of around 1.8mm between the antennae L1 and L2, of the read/write device 16 and memory tag 14 respectively. This is sufficient to transfer enough power to the memory tag 14 for it
5 to operate.

The memory tags 14 have an external dimension D of around 1mm, as described above, and therefore the read/write device 16 can communicate with them over a relatively short range, in this example of approximately 2D, (as illustrated on Figure 1 by broken circle 17). However, the distance over which the read/write device
10 16 and memory tag 14 will communicate effectively will clearly vary with the exact details of their construction, and it may therefore be up to 10D. Distances greater than this would limit the ability to use a plurality of memory tags 14 on a single sheet of paper 10, or other item, due to the distances which would be necessary between the memory tags 14 to ensure that the read/write device 16 does communicate with the
15 desired memory tag 14 out of a number present. To ensure that communication is with the correct memory tag 14 in every circumstance a communication distance of 5D or less is preferable.

The memory tags 14 will preferably have a data rate of 10Mbitss^{-1} , which is two orders of magnitude faster than is typical in prior art devices. Such a data rate
20 would enable the read/write device 16 to be held over the memory tag for a very short period of time ("brush and go") for the data to be read or written as appropriate.

Although the memory tags 14 described above operate at 2.45GHz it should be understood that memory tags operating at other frequencies may be used to implement the invention. Factors affecting the choice of operating frequency for the memory tags
25 are: a) government regulations concerning radio frequency transmissions; b) adequate bandwidth (consistent with government regulations); c) frequency high enough to render the physical size of components in the memory tag small enough to keep the area of silicon required low (and hence the cost to manufacture low); d) frequency low enough to provide adequate performance when using low-cost high-volume
30 CMOS technology to manufacture the memory tag.

It should further be appreciated that memory tags of this functional type can be produced without using RFID technology. For example, optical technologies can be used to power, read and write to memory tags, as described in the applicant's earlier British Patent Application No. 0227152.6.

Referring to Figures 4 and 5, apparatus 110 for printing onto a base medium and data writing to a memory tag in or on the base medium is illustrated. This embodiment is for use with a base medium in the form of sheet paper 112, to which memory tags 108 have been applied or within which memory tags 108 have been
5 embedded (as shown in Figure 4). The memory tags 108 are RFID memory tags for which the manner of writing data to the tags and reading data from the tags is well known (see above, but in addition for example the RFID Handbook, Klaus Finkenzeller, 1999, John Wiley & Sons). For simplicity only those parts of the apparatus 110 which need to be shown to describe the invention are illustrated and
10 described. It will be understood that the apparatus 110 includes much known technology from the prior art of printers, and from the prior art of RFID memory tags, which is not described here.

The apparatus 110 includes paper feed rollers 114 which are driven to rotate as indicated by arrows R1 to feed the paper sheets 112 through the apparatus 110 along a
15 first axis in the direction indicated by arrows A1.

The apparatus 110 further includes a print head 116, which in this example is of ink jet form, mounted on a print head carriage 118 which extends across the apparatus 110 substantially perpendicular to the axis A1. The print head 116 is moveable back and forth along the print head carriage 118, in known manner. Thus
20 the print head 116 is moveable back and forth along a second axis indicated by arrows A2, substantially perpendicular to the axis A1, to enable the print head 116 to access most of the upper surface 112a of the paper sheet 112 as it moves through the apparatus 110, and thus to print anywhere on that accessible area of surface 112a as required.

25 The apparatus 110 also includes a memory tag read/write device 120 which operates in known manner to write data to and/or read data from memory tags as required using an inductive coil 121. The inductive coil 121 of the memory tag read/write device 120 is connected to the print head 116 for movement back and forth along the print head carriage 118 with the print head 116. Thus the inductive coil 121
30 is moveable back and forth along a third axis indicated by arrows A3, substantially perpendicular to the axis A1, and parallel to the axis A2, to enable the memory tag read/write device 120 to read data from and/or write data to memory tags 108 located anywhere on or in the accessible area of the paper sheet 112, as will be described further below.

Referring now also to Figure 6, the apparatus 110 also includes a main processor 122 and a mechanics controller 126, which controls all the mechanical operations of the apparatus 110, (i.e. the paper feed rollers 114, the movement of the print head 116 and inductive coil 121 along the print head carriage 118). The main processor 122 receives instruction signals from a host computer 124, including the details of:

- 5 what to print;
- where to print it;
- where the memory tag 108 is or tags 108 are in/on the paper sheet 112; and
- 10 what data to write to the memory tag(s) 108.

The main processor 122 sends command signals as required to:

- the mechanics controller;
- the print head 116; and
- the memory tag read/write device 120,
- 15 to implement the instruction signals.

Thus the paper sheet 112 is fed through the apparatus 110 and has the required information printed on its upper surface 112a. At the same time the memory tags 108 on or within the paper sheet 112 have the necessary data written to them by the memory tag read/write device 120, with the movement of the memory tag read/write 20 device 120 (and print head 116) being paused with the memory tag read/write device 120 over the or each memory tag 108 as necessary for the data writing to take place.

The manner of co-ordination of the printing and data writing processes will depend on a number of factors. If, for example, the memory tags 108 are only present adjacent the top and/or bottom of the paper sheet 112 then the data writing process 25 can take place before and/or after the printing. This would avoid the necessity for the printing process to be interrupted, and would make the co-ordination simpler. Further, when implemented with an inkjet printer, which in general requires a pause, after printing has been completed before the paper sheet is ejected, to allow the ink to dry, the data writing process could conveniently take place during this pause for memory 30 tags present adjacent the bottom of the paper sheet 112.

In embodiments of the invention, the memory tags 108 will typically be read by hand held readers. Thus in order to assist users in the future to locate the memory tags 108 on the paper sheet 112 the memory tags 108 may have icons printed over their locations which can be readily identified by users.

The memory tag read/write device 120 may, in addition to writing the data to the memory tags 108, also conduct a read operation to check that the data has written successfully before the paper sheet 112 is moved on following the data write operation. Alternatively, particularly if the apparatus 110 is operating at high speed, a 5 separate data check device (not shown) may be included in the apparatus such that this operation takes place downstream of a memory tag write device which in this case need not also be capable of data reading.

It will be readily appreciated by the person skilled in the art that the modification to a conventional printing technology (in this case, the functional 10 structure of the printing device is that customarily found in inkjet printing technology) can be employed to functional structures used in other printing technologies, such as laserjet and digital presses (such as HP Indigo presses). This last technology is particularly suitable for mass production of documents, for example book publication.

It can be seen from the above that there is no fundamental complexity 15 involved in creating and publishing documents in accordance with embodiments of the invention using printing technology described in Figures 4 to 6. As for the content generation stage, conventional word processing and web publishing software (such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Frontpage respectively) familiarly allows inserts of data of a different data type – in web publishing in particular, it is familiar to 20 determine an icon for rendering that has a hyperlink function and can serve, if activated by a reader of the document, to link to another page or a file (such as a sound clip). Essentially the same approach can be taken here – the user composing the document on host computer 124 can place an icon on the page being composed (the possibilities for doing this may be determined by the approach taken to including 25 memory tags with the printed document – if they are fixed in the paper, then the icon may either be constrained to sit with an available tag, or may instead be an indicator of which of a row or column of tags is to be read at a given point, whereas if the tags are to be placed by the printer, the icon may be at any point on the page), and may designate a particular file to be stored in the memory tag associated with that icon. 30 The document for printing, the files for the memory tags, and all placement information can then be provided by the document generation software on host computer 124 to the main processor 122 of the printing device for rendering as described above.

It can therefore be seen that a method of publishing a document, according to an aspect of the invention can comprise determining first information for viewing by a user to be printed in a printed document and second information for viewing by a user to be written to one or more memory circuits attached to the printed document, 5 printing the first information on a print medium to form the printed document; and writing the second information into the one or more memory circuits attached to the printed document, wherein the one or more memory circuits are adapted to be powered and read wirelessly by a reader device so that the second information can be viewed by a user.

10 Figure 7 shows a preferred way in which a user can view a published document of the type according to an embodiment of the invention, the published document using the memory tag and printing technologies described above with reference to Figures 1 to 6.

Figure 7 shows a published document comprising a printed document and at 15 least one memory (in the form of a memory tag) attached to the printed document, wherein said at least one memory comprises an electrical circuit without an integral power source but may be powered wirelessly so that it may transmit information wirelessly, wherein at least a portion of the information stored in the published document for display to the user is provided in said at least one memory.

20 A book 300 is provided with memory tags 301 essentially as shown in Figure 1. One memory tag 301 is associated with a picture 302, and another with a passage of text 303. Both the memory tags 301 contain additional content relevant to the printed document elements with which they are associated. Attached to the book by a holder 320 is a personal digital assistant (PDA) 310, comprising a display 312 and a 25 digitizer pad 313 for making alphanumeric input to the PDA. The stylus 311 of the PDA for making digitizer input here has an additional function – it is also the reader (or a part of the reader, in conjunction with functionality within the PDA itself) for reading the content stored in the memory tags. All the functions of the reader described in Figures 1 to 3 as adapted for use in embodiments of the present invention 30 (in essence, a reader device for reading information from an unpowered memory circuit, in this case an inductively power RFID type memory tag, attached to a printed document, the reader device comprising a circuit for providing power to the memory circuit so that data can be transmitted from a memory of the memory circuit, a decoder to read information transmitted by a transmitter of the memory circuit and a

display circuit for providing information received by the decoding circuit for display) are provided by either the stylus 311 or the stylus 311 and processor of the PDA 310 in combination, according to design choice, and are not further described with reference to Figure 7. If, as shown here, stylus 311 is not connected by a wire to PDA 5 310, then both stylus and PDA need to be equipped with a wire replacement communication technology such as Bluetooth – in this wireless arrangement, a power source and appropriate processing technology will need to be located within stylus 311. Content may be downloaded by bringing the stylus tip into proximity with a memory tag 301, with content then being displayed (preferably directly) on display 10 312 of the PDA 310. It will be appreciated that other display possibilities are possible (the PDA 310 may, for example, be adapted to control a monitor, in which case the display may take place there), but the illustrated form is considered to have the benefit that to the user, it most resembles an enhancement to the reading of a book.

As can be seen from the above a method of viewing information in a published 15 document comprising a printed document and one or more memory circuits attached to the printed document, comprises, in one aspect of the invention, viewing information printed in the printed document, powering the memory circuit with a reader device to transmit information stored in the memory circuit to the reader device wirelessly, and displaying the information stored in the memory circuit by means of 20 the reader device for viewing by the user. Numerous data types may advantageously be provided in the memory tags 301 using this approach. One possibility is to include a passage of video in a memory tag 301, or an animation: neither of which could be satisfactorily rendered in a static medium. Both of these applications will however place significant demands on the memory capacity of a memory tag. A further 25 attractive possibility, likely generally to require less memory, is provision of personalisable content.

As previously suggested, a memory tag 301 may contain information that, in combination with user provided information, results in new information for display. This will typically be achieved by providing executable code in the memory tag 301 30 for execution by the processor of the PDA 310 (or other reading device). The user provided information may thus be information already resident in the PDA (for example, user details provided in a standard format such that the processor will obtain them when executing the executable code from a predetermined location) or information for which the user will be prompted. Here, the prompts may appear on

the display 310 and responses entered by the user on display 312. Numerous examples for use of such a technology could be found. For example, a book on nutrition may contain discussion of life expectancy based on diet. The memory tag associated with this discussion may contain a questionnaire for the user: the user, on 5 downloading the questionnaire in executable form from the memory tag, would then be prompted by the PDA display to enter answers to a series of questions about the user's diet, at the end of which the user's life expectancy would be calculated and displayed on the display 312 (possibly with tips concerning dietary improvement). This is merely an example of provision of general downloadable content in a memory 10 tag 301 which can be used to provide information for display which is personal to the user reading the published document 300.

The memory tag technology described here generally allows users both to read from and write to memory tags 301. In the case of a mass produced document, it may be desirable to use memory tags 301 which are read-only, by disabling the writing 15 circuit in the tag or the reader or by some other means. However, in personal or custom publication of documents, and even for some forms of mass produced document, it may be desirable to allow the user to modify or replace the content of the memory tags 301 to create a published document personalised to them.